

Connacht Regional News



Traditiones et Spiritum Amateur Radio Servandum



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Welcome to the Tenth Edition of the Connacht Regional News Magazine

The Connacht Regional News Magazine is 100% *inclusive, unbiased,* and primarily written for the local Clubs and Groups in Connacht although there is a wealth of information that is of interest to all radio operators. More recently we have decided to include all aspects of Radio Communications and associated Groups. *Please Note: We are totally freelance* and in absolutely no way, tied into, or affiliated to, any one National Society. This enables us to report activities of *ALL* Radio Groups and Clubs in Ireland who wish to supply news items of interest.

It should be noted that, by taking a freelance stance, we are not favouring any Club Group or Society. If there is an absence of material from a Society or Club, it is because they did not supply material, *naturally beyond our control.*

We are fortunate that the West of Ireland has seven Radio Clubs within Connacht all of which are very active, as can be seen from their activities in our publication.

We do repeat forthcoming activities in several editions to give advanced notice of the event and to enable clubs and groups to prepare for them.

We promote >>ALL<< radio activities that are due to occur rather than report those that have happened. If you have an item of interest, please feel free to forward it to Steve. EI5DD, who will include it in the following newsletter.

Due to the overwhelming success and readership of the Connacht Regional news, now going viral, we will produce a publication MONTHLY.

A link may be found on the Galway VHF Group Web Page for the most recent copy of the Publication.

**We Welcome Feedback
so if you enjoyed this
publication please mail
Steve EI5DD:
wright14@gmail.com**

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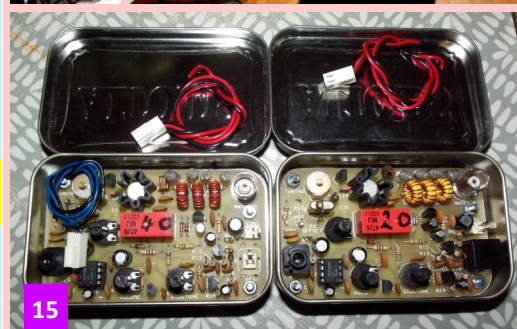
Skywave Radio Club 26

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Submitting Items To This Magazine

We are always delighted to receive any radio related material for this magazine.

Please E-mail us in advance of submission so that space can be allocated.



Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, those of the Carrion Press or the Galway VHF Group

News and Forthcoming Events

Irish Net

Active not only on Sundays, but most weekdays starting at around **16:00 UTC**, the **informal gathering on 14.156 MHz** frequently suffers from QRM during contests and DXers unaware of this long standing net of North American operators with an Irish connection. In a recent contact on 20m with W11DP, QTH Tuscon Arizona, operator Jerry confirmed that the net now also uses the **17m band operating on 18.114 MHz**, avoiding the increased QRM on 20m and taking advantage of improved propagation conditions

Special Event Station GB1LJF 1st December

GB1LJF begins its on-air activities on **Thursday the 1st of December**. The Special Event Station is operating to celebrate the manufacturing of the English Electric Lightning aircraft in Lancashire. More information is available via the GB1LJF.



The aircraft was built at the 3 sites around Preston: Strand Road, Samlesbury and Warton. And at English Electric in Accrington. Strand Road was the metal bashing factory producing the fuselage components that were wired and sent to Samlesbury for assembly. The aircraft were then flown to Warton for final installation of electronics and flight testing.

The Lightning was two engines with metal wrapped round them. A mighty roar, reheat power to the end of the runway and vertical into the sky. The RAF had nothing like it until the Typhoon.

The Lightning was exported to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and was the first of a long relationship with Saudi Arabia. The first operational Lightning's saw service as an interceptor to defend the V-Force airfields during the Cold war although the range of early variants proved to be restrictive in other roles. The ultimate Lightning in RAF service was the F.6 which could carry two 260 gallon 'ferry' or 'drop-tanks' on pylons fitted above the wings. The official ceiling of the Lightning was a closely guarded secret although it is said to be more than 60,000ft and it is well renowned for its exceptional rate of climb at 20,000 ft per minute. More information is available via the GB1LJF QRZ.com page

Visit the WESCOM Radio Shop
<https://wescom.ie/>



The entire month of December, several youngsters under the age of 26 will become active with YOTA suffixes in their call signs. The idea behind this is to show the amateur radio hobby to youth and to encourage youngsters to be active on the ham radio waves.

The last time YOTA call signs hitting the air waves was from the 10th annual YOTA Summer Camp in early August 2022. Nearly 100 youngsters were activating various bands and modes. This shall be continued in this year's 10th edition of the December YOTA Month activity.

Every ham radio operator can support the youth worldwide! By making a QSO with them, they can improve their skills on air and learn more about geography and ham radio abbreviations, among others. The youngsters will be happy to get some attention and exchange information. Licensed and unlicensed youth will be making QSOs, be aware this could be their first radio contact ever and give them a chance to experience a possible new hobby.

Help your local youngsters to get on the air throughout the December YOTA Month. Either you are a supporting Elmer or under 26 years yourself, contact your society's youth coordinator to be active with your national YOTA call sign(s). If your society did not apply for one yet, feel free to encourage them to do so of course. It will be a pleasure to work a lot of new youngsters on the bands for sure!

As every year, there is again an award program available. Work as many YOTA stations on as many bands and modes as possible and be eligible for your Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum award for free. Furthermore, there will be wooden plaques for the best achieving radio hams worldwide available once again. The various categories will be announced once we are getting closer to the event itself.

The DYM program promotes the radio activity on the air waves and shows that there is and will be activity in the future.

Last year the worldwide participation of IARU member societies in all three regions was at a never seen high while counting 62 active stations. The youngsters achieved nearly 120,000 QSOs and over 2,000 free awards were downloaded from the DYM website. Therefore, let's participate in December YOTA Month, and achieve big numbers together once again in December 2022!

**GB22YOTA West Tyrone ARC on Saturday 10th
December Afternoon with local Girl Guide
group and Tuesday 13th December evening with
a local Scout group**

News and Forthcoming Events

New "N" Class Licence for Germany

Germany's proposed new "N" class entry-level licence could be in place as early as January the 1st of 2023. The possible addition, announced earlier this year, is being reviewed by the German regulator to add a third licence class to the existing E, Novice, and A, Full, licence classes. A change in the regulations would give the N class operators call signs with the prefix DN and the current DN callsigns, which are used for training purposes under supervision of a licensed ham, would be cancelled on December 31st of this year, to be replaced with a DN/ prefix.

The new entry level "N" class will grant privileges to use the 2 metre and 70 centimetre bands with up to 10 watts EIRP. The operator will be allowed to build and operate homemade equipment if it conforms to the regulations. It is possible that usage of the 10-metre band may also be added to the class N licence at the end of 2023.

The content of the licence exam syllabi will also be changed to make them "cumulative" with the ability, it is hoped, to allow the taking of the class N, class E and class A exams in sequence to get to a full licence in one day of testing. The class N exam will cover all legal regulations, operational rules, and a limited amount of technical knowledge questions. The class E and A exams will then only cover additional, more technical theory questions, building on the knowledge of the previous level or levels.



We Have a Facebook Page
The Connacht Regional
News Magazine



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1437072523434876>

RSGB Construction Competition



The RSGB recognises the importance of construction as a key element of amateur radio, whether that is using traditional construction skills or a software or systems engineering project.

Following on from the success of last year, the annual RSGB Construction Competition will again be held online with entries judged over the internet. This will allow RSGB members from across the country, or indeed from across the world, to participate and demonstrate their creativity.

Categories

The judges will be considering entries in four categories:

1. **Beginners:** a chance to build a kit, create your own antenna or construct something else to help you take your first steps into amateur radio
2. **Construction excellence:** recognising the skill and craftsmanship used in building the entry
3. **Innovation:** recognising an original contribution to the art and science of wireless or radio communication

Software: recognising the importance of software technology to all aspects of amateur radio. The judges will choose the section in which an entry is judged and the number of prizes/awards, after they have looked at all of the projects submitted.

A cash prize will be awarded for the winner of each section, with a bonus for the overall winner, who will also be declared the winner of the Pat Hawker G3VA Trophy

Special recognition

The judges will give special recognition to entries submitted by:

1. Radio amateurs under the age of 24

Those who have just gained their Foundation licence

The judges will choose the section in which an entry is judged and the number of prizes/awards, after they have looked at all of the projects submitted.

How to enter

1. Email a short description of your entry and up to four photographs to construction.competition@rsgb.org.uk
2. If you would also like to send a link to a video that demonstrates your entry working, that would be very helpful for the judges

The deadline for us to receive your entry is 1 March 2023.

The results of the competition will be announced during the 2023 RSGB Annual General Meeting in April next year.

**Would You Like to Promote Your Club
and its Activities?**

**Is your club planning an event in the next
month?**

Are you planning a club activity?

Are you setting up a new Repeater or Gateway?

**Drop us a line or two and we will include your
item in the Connacht Regional Newsletter**

News and Forthcoming Events

Research Carried Out for New Disk Shaped Satellites

The world of the ultra-tiny satellite is preparing to take on a whole new shape. The promise of a new kind of plate-shaped ultra-tiny satellite. In fact, the DiskSat, as it is called, is in development as a potential replacement for the widely known CubeSat, with the hopes of creating a new standard. Because they are so thin - measuring one inch, or 2.5cm wide - many can be launched at the same time, stacked inside a payload for later deployment on an individual basis. Although its dimensions can be changed, the demonstration DiskSat also measures 1 meter, or not-quite 40 inches - in diameter, leaving plenty of room for solar cells.

NASA has funded the project by engineers at Aerospace Corporation, a national non-profit company headquartered in California. Aerospace hopes to get a quartet of DiskSats launched in either 2023 or 2024 through the Pentagon's Space Test Program. Engineers hope the DiskSat will prove suitable for very low Earth orbit, offering low atmospheric drag and the ability to stay up in space for longer periods of time.

WRTC 2023 Award



This is a WRTC 2023 AWARD for anybody who wants to have fun in radio chasing and looking for WRTC Special event stations all over the world. The WRTC Special Event takes place between **00.00 UTC on January 1st**

2023 to 23.59 UTC 31st January 2023. A full set of rules and a list of Special Event Stations may be found at <https://www.wrtc2022.it/en/wrtc-2023-award-31.asp>

Ham Payload Going To Be Hosted On The Chinese Space Station



The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) satellite frequency coordination panel reports that an application has been submitted for an amateur radio payload to be hosted on the Chinese Tiangong space station. The coordination request states: "CSSARC is the amateur radio payload for Chinese Space Station, proposed by Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC), Aerospace System Engineering Research Institute of Shanghai (ASES) and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT)." The first phase of the payload is capable of providing the following functions utilizing the VHF/UHF amateur radio band:

- 1) V/V or U/U crew voice
- 2) V/U or U/V FM repeater
- 3) V/V or U/U 1k2 AFSK digipeater
- 4) V/V or U/U SSTV or digital image

The payload will provide resources for radio amateurs worldwide to make contacts with onboard astronauts or communicate with each other. It will also play a role to inspire students to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, and to encourage more people to get interested in amateur radio.



TDOTA is an opportunity for the members of Girlguiding from the youngest Rainbow to the oldest Trefoil Guild member to talk to other members of the World Association of Girl Guides and

Girl Scouts all over the world via Amateur Radio. .

The **22nd February is Thinking Day** because it was the birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout and Guide movements, and his wife Olave, who was the first World Chief Guide..

On this day each year members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) remember the founders of the movement and take part in various activities to think about their sisters throughout the world.

Find us on Facebook, look for [TDOTA](#)

HamRadio Solutions CW Hotline



The HamRadio Solutions CW Hotline is a internet WiFi connected Morse Code/CW keyer that provides a private Morse code link between friends, enables remote keying of a CW transceiver, is a

standalone Morse code iambic keyer, and a latency free interface for HamRadio Solutions VBand service. It includes a built-in iambic paddle or straight key, but can also accept an external paddle or key. It has a built-in speaker, line-out audio jack, and a key output to drive a connected radio. Once linked to one or more other CW Hotline devices, any CW entered into one will be sent to and played by all other linked devices. Multiple devices can be connected to each other with a user generated link key entered into each device. For more information: <https://hamradio.solutions/cwhotline/>

New ITU Secretary-General



The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has announced the election of Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States of America as the new ITU Secretary General. Bogdan-Martin will assume office on the 1st of January 2023. She is a radio amateur and holds the callsign KD2JTX. The election took place during the ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) in Bucharest, Romania, on the 29th of September 2022. Bogdan-Martin won the vote with 139 votes out of 172 votes cast by Member States.

Limerick Radio Club Re-launched



Limerick Radio Club had been relaunched with club callsign: **EI9LR**

Membership is open to all and the club hopes to participate in field days, contests and special events.

Radio theory classes are also in the pipeline for the future.

Suggestions & queries are welcome via email to

limerickradioclubei9lr@gmail.com

Keep an eye on the club Facebook page for announcements and maybe some club giveaways before Christmas!



BUSHVALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FUNDRAISING RALLY 2022

**The club would sincerely like to thank everyone
who attended and/or donated so generously
to our fund raising rally in support of
Air Ambulance Northern Ireland**

In total we raised £2419.55

**We are going to round this up to £2500 which
will be presented to this very worthy charity.**

www.bushvalleyarc.org



bushvallyarc@gmail.com

Experimental Radio Part 3 5-Element Beam for 80 Metres

The Driven element of this beam is mounted on a standoff on the easterly SS Mast about 70 feet up. Recently, this has been modified to operate with a 1:1 3KW rated Balun and fed with helix cable. The element is cut for resonance at 3795 KHz.

Then at 30 wavelengths appx. 280 degrees and 100 degrees, it was easy to go with the 4 X 4 equipped with an RF Field Strength meter—in the form of an ICOM 7100 signal strengths were measured front and back. Just 10 watts of carrier was used in these tests. So QRP has its uses.

A Kevlar rope boom is suspended between this mast and mast to the west 420 feet away.

The Kevlar boom has markings every 50 feet just for ease of adjustment.

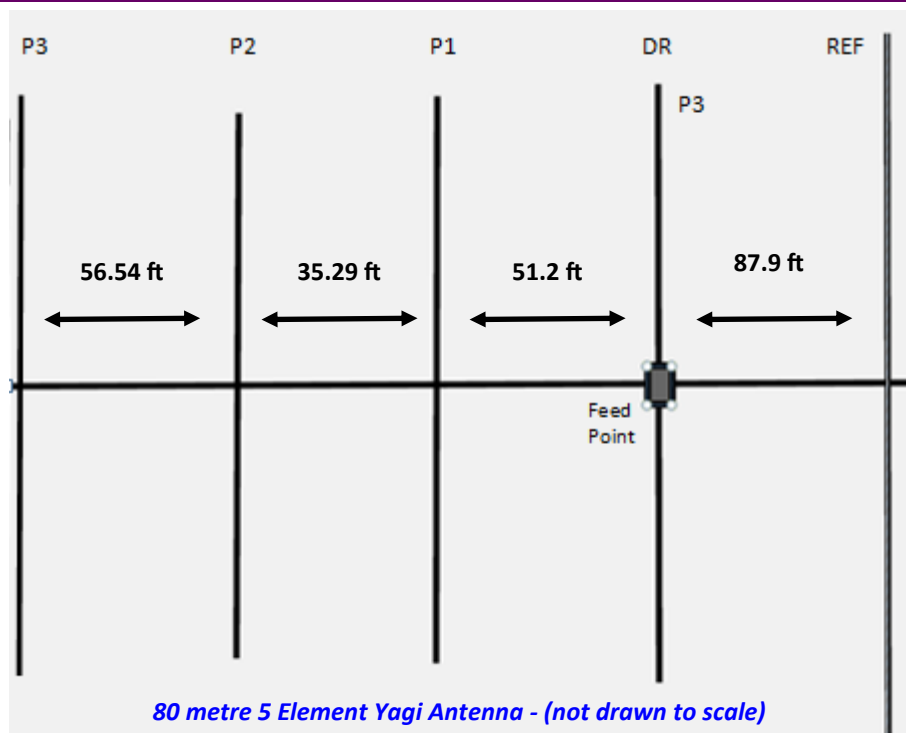
Following guidelines in Bill Orr's Handbook & Therman, the length and spacings of the next 3 Parasitic elements and the reflector were calculated approximately. Several modelling programs were also consulted and tried; however, no model came close to the result in terms of spacing and lengths. ORR and Therman were found to be far more accurate.

Then the first parasitic was mounted on the boom – then again at 30 wavelengths the signal strengths were measured front & back. Many adjustments in terms of spacing were made until the best compromise was reached between VSWR - GAIN & F/B -in practise the spacing was closer than calculated and the feedline impedance dropped - measured by Rig Expert test equipment and by VSWR metering. The length was also adjusted, and this became slightly longer than anticipated.

Next a second Kevlar boom was strung to the east (convenient tree) The reflector element was placed on this boom and adjusted until the best FB & FWD gain was achieved-then fixe. Finally, because for a 1:1 balun to be used we had to achieve a 50Ω feed-point impedance

Dimensions of Elements

Reflector	128.18 ft
Driven	125.68 ft
Parasitic 1	122.08 ft
Parasitic 2	116.83 ft
Parasitic 3	121.13 ft



Spacing Between Elements

Ref > Driven Element	87.9 ft
Driven > Parasitic 1	51.82 ft
Parasitic 1 > Parasitic 2	35.29 ft
Parasitic 2 > Parasitic 3	56.54 ft

The ends of the elements are suspended as near horizontal as possible on de-branched trees where the position was suitable and supports erected where necessary these are by no means perfect, so Spiderbeam came to the rescue by (A) making Wescom their Irish distributor and (B) sending on telescopic fibreglass poles.

The driven element for the 40-meter wire beam is now also connected to this balun. Soon the 60-meter driven element (soon to be 3 elements) will be also connected to the same feed point, thus one feed line will serve these 3 bands. The usual amount of adjusting has to be done on the driven elements in this multi DR setup simply to ensure a flat VSWR at the resonant frequency as elements are added these are very small changes.

On 80 metres, the forward gain is approximately 7 dBI FB appx 15 dB. This is a great setup at 280 degrees forward direction, Cape Cod in the sights and up to 30 degrees either side from 240 through 320 degrees. Outside of this, it deteriorates of course, at 7dBI, the

ERP is considerable - in contest mode it is very good in its chosen direction.

Either a 4 square or a pair of verticals with phasing lines is under consideration in order to rotate the RF beam, similar to W2VP - take a look at his setup. This would be more practical for most, rather than a large Yagi & easier to keep up in Irish weather. Most definitely easier to rotate. (pun intended).

This year the antenna has been getting great reports in Newfoundland V01SR Rich, Prince Edward Island, VY2NX, Bob and more up to 2 hours before darkness and in Atlanta, Georgia, W2VP, John and others as early as 3 hours before darkness. The receiving antenna is more often one of the beverages, these which cuts out all sorts of problems noise and DQRM emanating from EU UK, and EI NE particularly, and are very quiet--signals on the beverage are much lower than the Yagi in the chosen direction but easier to read.

Mornings this year so far, best in Atlanta & VE3 from 05.30, up until as late as 08.30 good signals 5/9 in Atlanta, Indonesia/JA, /A61 areas around 22.00, LU and other South American areas and Caribbean mornings and evenings- --sporadic - not so many operators are active in the DX windows yet this winter. The Experimentation continues

Marconi Radio Group - EI0MRG

wescomradio@gmail.com

A Satellite Antenna Project - John Tubbritt EI2HQB

Having been involved in Amateur Radio since 1973's, I have delved into many aspects of the hobby

One part that always interested me was satellites. Back in the day that Oscar 10 was the bird in the sky and long before the days of internet we relied on info passed on radio and booklets like you get today for tidal charts.

Hitting Oscar 10 back then was like trying to hit a golf ball flying just over your head as its orbit was so low but it was all good fun even on cold nights out in the middle of a park trying to get a blip from a golf ball traveling like a bullet above your head.

These days it's so much easier with the internet, live coverage and equipment to be able to work the satellite, one of the main components needed is of course an antenna.



A 2m / 70cm Satellite Antenna complete with Angle Finder

The elements are through the boom and care needs to be taken when drilling me as a rule center punch and then pilot with a 3mm and 7mm and then to 10mm no point rushing the project or it may end up useless.

Once drilled then elements are cut and inserted into the boom and a stainless screw into the boom/element.



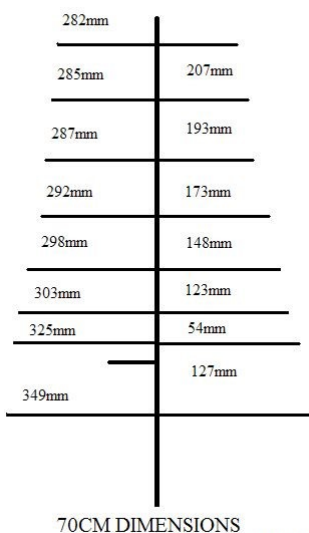
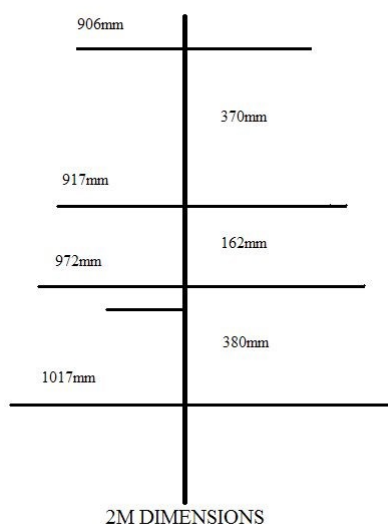
The 70cm Elements fixed to the boom

You can buy antenna ready to run or in my case always building ant I had lost of off cuts of tube and so decided id build mu own.

The antenna is straight forward in as much as it is just a 4 element 2metre and a 8 element 70cm at 90 deg.

Tuning is by gamma matching with a section of 213 coax inside the 10mm tube and adjusted in and out where needed.

"BOW" AND "ARROW" SATELLITE ANTENNA SCHEMATIC



[ZS11 SCHEMATICS]

End caps are optional and are so cheap these days and will give the antenna a professional look when complete.

You can add BNC/SO239 Sockets to the boom as required and use a duplexer for operating both frequencies

A Baofeng radio is suitable and cheap and antenna cost can be as little as €40 to build.

I added an angle finder Aliexpress I think about €6 and I use an old microphone stand to support.

Antenna worked well when a number of friends used it achieving good results in comparison with the commercial ones they had purchased.

So have a go it's a handy project also good using out portable for 2/70 V+H with a bit of lift out there.

Any further info needed just drop me a line.

The Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club Rally

On Sunday 6th November the Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club held their annual radio rally at Limavady Football club. I had my old mate Philip, EI8JT join me from Enniskerry and we collected Ronan, 2I0HKW from Prehen on the way. Before we set off, I made an Ulster fry with all the trimmings. Bellies full, we set off for Limavady. I took us just under an hour to arrive and there was already a good crowd waiting. We were one of the first to enter so we had a good look around and tried to bag a bargain.



There was a good selection of traders and plenty of gadgets, components, and radios for sale. I was surprised at the range of items for sale, and I even put an item into the bring and buy table to sell. It sold within minutes at an agreed price, so the rally went off to a good start. Rallies aren't just about buying and selling, it's also a social function and it was great to see old friends and I made a few new friends.



The coffee was good and there were a few tables and chairs so we could sit and have a natter. Beside the seats was the QSL stand so I picked up a few QSL cards and finished my coffee. Peter EI4JR could be seen videoing the rally and his video is on YouTube for you to watch. It really shows how busy the day really was. There was a real buzz and a fantastic atmosphere.

As well as the usual traders Ian, G10AZB and Ester, G10AZA were manning the WAB table and Philip, M10MSO and Trevor, M15TCC were manning the RSGB and RAYNET table.

Something caught my eye on one of the tables. There were three CW keys that looked to be in good condition. Being an avid CW operator, I was intrigued. One was



clearly a WWII British Army key, and I wasn't sure about the other two. So, I did a bit of research on Google and found out that one of the other two was an RAF Lancaster bomber key and the last one was made by a popular maker from Spain who has since gone silent key. I didn't know which key I would go for, so I made a cheeky offer, and I bought all three! When I got home, I had a closer look, and they were all in excellent condition and I worked various stations with all three keys and that made my day.



There were plenty of prizes and as well as the door ticket, there were tickets on sale for some fantastic prizes, including a helicopter ride, locally made single malt whiskey, radio related prizes and various local vouchers. In total there was over £1000 worth of prizes. All the proceeds from the rally went to Air Ambulance Northern Ireland and added up to £2419.55 and the club kindly



rounded it up to £2500. Well done Bushvalley ARC. Philip won one of the door prizes, I had my keys and Ronan bought a few items, so we went home happy and content.

It really was a great day out; it was a successful event and we look forward to the next rally.

Micheal Na bPoib - M10HOZ

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Holidaying in Ireland With Amateur Radio

This article has grown out of a presentation given to the Surrey Radio Contact Club (SRCC) in February 2022, which meets in Croydon, Surrey, England about 20km south of the centre of London.

The purpose of the presentation, and this article, was to describe how one could incorporate some amateur radio activities into a family holiday, ie, it was not a radio holiday going out operating portable stations on hills or summits, but a holiday in which some amateur radio activity was fitted in and around other normal holiday activities. I will go on to describe the logistical side of choosing holiday locations, making bookings, travelling, etc, give an overview of the 'holiday' experience and detail how I can setup and teardown a HF amateur radio station including antenna in about an hour. The operation described was from fixed locations, i.e. houses that have been rented.

Why is an Irish radio amateur holidaying in Ireland? Well, there is certainly nothing wrong with staycations but though I am Irish I am actually domiciled in the UK and am licenced there as G4FDN and prior to that as G8FDN. On average, we have visited Ireland in the summer every couple of years but between 2020 to 2022, so during the Covid-19 pandemic, we came every year. It was unusual for us to holiday in Ireland in 3 successive years, but the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in 2020 and 2021, made planning for more distant itineraries inherently more logistically uncertain and complicated.

Type and duration of holiday:

Since my wife and I are now both retired our summer holidays are typically of 4 to 6 weeks duration. When coming to Ireland we travel by car and ferry to and from the UK using a variety of ports in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



Car ferry routes between Ireland and Great Britain

We book and arrange accommodation directly ourselves. We typically rent self-catering houses in around 3 different locations together with some hotels stays of 2-3 days, and occasionally some stays with relatives. We often have friends and relatives stay with us for part of our holiday. My wife is a Mainer (i.e. from Maine in the USA) and we have had cousins of hers from the US and Austria stay with us and cousins and friends of mine from the US, UK and Germany stay with us and have the opportunity to get acquainted with Ireland.

The actual holidays are a mix of socialising, walking and rambling, visiting historic sites, and just plain relaxing. There is nothing better for one's wellbeing to be in a peaceful location surrounded by unspoilt beautiful scenery. We also tend to eat out at least once a day at either pubs, restaurants/cafes and as we quite often rent houses near the coast we take advantage of buying fresh locally caught fish for home cooking.

We also have done this type of holiday in Austria/Germany and the USA and Canada -the latter two with flights and car rental.

When we first started holidaying in Ireland as a family in 1997 our son was 5 years old and as any parent knows keeping a child happy and contented while travelling and staying away can take a bit of effort. As our son is now nearly 30 it has been around 12 years since he last accompanied us so in those succeeding years the holiday focus has been a little different to those early years.

Type and duration of amateur radio operation

There is a saying which I first heard in the USA which goes "*A happy wife, a happy life*" which is a good maxim to follow when considering the right balance between holiday activities and amateur radio operation. I chose times and durations that didn't impact the enjoyment of others.

Typically, radio operation ranges from 30 minutes to an hour after breakfast on 40m SSB, and an hour or so on some evenings when not socialising. This is often on 17m or 20m SSB, but CW, PSK31 and FreeDV (narrowband digital voice) have also been used. Operation on VHF/UHF FM has also been done, and contacts with local Irish amateurs are more often successful if scheduled around and in local nets.

Over the years the morning 40m operation has evolved into a net with amateurs who are members of my local radio club back in the UK (The Surrey Radio Contact Club). They know in advance when I'm away and I send an SMS text on the morning of operation of the frequency being used. It often happens, and is welcomed, that other amateurs around Europe also call in, typically from France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Evening operation is usually when DX opportunities arise and good contacts with USA, Canada, Caribbean, South America, Africa and Asiatic Russia have been made.

Type of vehicle used: For the last 20 years a 5 seater MPV (Vauxhall/Opel Zafira) with 2 extra fold out child seats, has been used. This has given ample room for all luggage, amateur radio equipment and antennas, gifts, and space for shopping for things to bring home. Prior to that we used a VW Jetta.

Journey times: From where we live in Carshalton Beeches in northeast Surrey it is typically 5 to 5 ½ hour drive to ferry ports such as Holyhead, Fishguard, or Pembroke in Wales, or Liverpool in England and around 8 hours to Cairnryan or Stranraer in Scotland.

Holidaying in Ireland With Amateur Radio



The Vauxhall/Opel Zafira MPV has quite good boot space

With destination Irish ports being Rosslare, Dublin, Belfast or Larne. Crossing times are around 3 to 3 ½ hours except on routes from Liverpool which are typically around 7 hours. Driving from say Rosslare up to County Mayo or County Donegal can take 5 or 6 hours. So outward and return journeys typically have an overnight stay at or near the departing or arriving port.

Types of houses rented:

Mostly detached bungalow type with space around it in terms of garden or adjacent fields, in rural settings often near the sea, or major rivers, but not exclusively so.

Ideally, within a mile or so of a pub or restaurant

Living in a suburban location like Carshalton Beeches we like quiet and isolated locations to visit.

If we have relatives or friends joining us then properties with two or more bathrooms and 3 to 5 bedrooms



House rented in Kilroe, Killala, Co. Mayo in 2020



View from rear of house in Kilroe overlooking Killala Bay and Bartra Island



House rented at Gortnageera, Martinstown, Co. Antrim in 2021



House rented on The Quay, Kildysart Co. Clare in 2020

The house must have a washer/dryer -you can't go away for 4-5 weeks and not need to wash any clothes, and Ireland's summer climate is such that rain can be expected, and walking along coasts or up and down hills and glens will often leave you muddy.

Many small farmers have built houses on their land specifically for holiday rentals. As a result of land reform in Ireland between 1880-1900, people in Ireland have one of the highest percentage/size of land ownerships in Europe. As a result, in rural areas people have often built houses on their land, with incentives, purely for short term holiday lets.



***View from front of house in Gortnageera
(Irish speakers will know why it is called Gortnageera)***

Holidaying in Ireland With Amateur Radio



View from front of house in Kildysart overlooking the small harbour & the Shannon river & estuary

The house booking process:

Back in the 1990's houses would be found either in published directories for self-catering or in catalogues from specialist rental companies like Shamrock Cottages. These days many of the rentals we make are via AirBnB and other online agencies such as VRBO, and some are made directly with the owner especially if we have rented there before.

How do you find a house location suitable for amateur radio?:

Local knowledge of an area helps, and tips from relatives and friends help too, but resources like Google Earth and Streetview allow one to get a reasonable view and understanding of the location and what garden or field space may be available adjacent to the house of interest. If I have any doubts, I will email or call the owner.

How do you get permission for antennas?

My approach, which has had a 100% success rate so far, is not to ask until you have met the owner.

So, shortly after arrival I tell them I have a tripod with a pole that I use for a radio antenna and show them a photo of it on my phone, and suggest where I would like to put it.

Sometimes the owners, where the space in front or back of the house is small or restricted, will let you use an adjacent field.

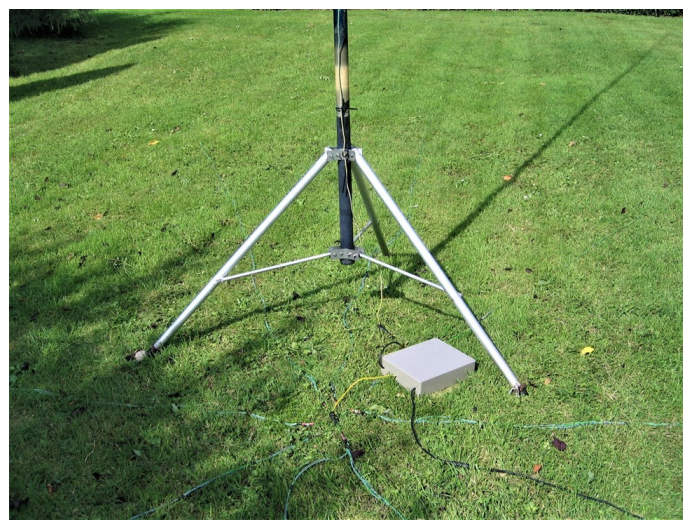
You need to have an antenna that is self-supporting and doesn't rely on trees or buildings to be tethered to. That is why I have gone for vertical ground plane antennas.

The HF Antenna:

The antenna I use for HF is a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane on 40m, it consists of a 10m telescopic fibre glass pole mounted in a metal folding tripod. The tripod is fixed in place with ground stakes, and if in a very windy location the pole will be guyed as well. The antenna radiating element is a wire either inside the pole or taped to it. The ground plane consists of 8 sets of bundled wire ground radials, with each of the wires in the bundles being a $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength either on 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, or 6m. These radial wires just lay on the ground so ideally need to be in a place where humans or animals do not need to traverse regularly. So this antenna is resonant on 40m and 15m without an ATU, but a battery powered auto ATU, a LDG Z11 Pro, located at the base of the antenna is used to match to other bands 80m to 6m.



Antenna at rear of house in Gortnageera -the land is on the side of a glen



Antenna tripod holding the fibreglass telescopic pole and gray box holding the auto ATU

If required, the antenna can be put up single handed, but part of the process is quicker if a second pair of hands are available (usually my wife).

The Antenna for VHF/UHF:

A Diamond X-30 dual band 2m/70cm vertical colinear antenna is used on a sectional aluminium pole approximately 18 feet long held in a metal tripod.

Holidaying in Ireland With Amateur Radio



Close up showing bundled wire ground radials

My Typical Equipment List consists of:

- Yaesu FT-897 (with built in AC PSU & IEC mains power lead)
- Yaesu SCU-17 (for voice and data digital modes)
- Windows 10 laptop (used for voice and data digital modes and to access web SDRs)
- LDG Z-11 Pro Auto ATU (AA battery powered) in homemade weatherproof box with common mode choke
- 10m fiberglass roach pole with aluminium tripod, with 10m wire with guy ropes and ground pegs (in more recent years I also bring a spare pole)
- A pair of post clamps (sometimes used instead of a tripod for holding the fiberglass pole)
- 8 multiband 40m-6m wire ground radials
- Two sets of coax (one 40ft, one 50 ft)
- Set of swaged aluminium poles and tripod (used with VHF/UHF antenna)
- Diamond X-30 144/432MHz collinear antenna
- Set of Coax interseries adapters
- Bag of re-suable cable ties
- Self amalgamating tape, PVC tape, Duct tape
- Small electrical tool wallet, multimeter and USB rechargeable soldering iron.

The list has been refined over the last twenty years to ensure minimization of required space in car, but retain some ability to fault-find and undertake small repairs.



Yaesu FT-897



Setting up and tearing down the station

If it is a location we have rented before, fairly straightforward as you know already best place from antenna, transceiver and cable runs.

Where it is a new location some assessment and decisions have to be made based on your antenna and equipment constraints and the possibilities for antenna location, rig location, and cable runs taking into account existing external hazards, e.g. overhead power lines and footpaths or driveways others may have to cross. Coax cables are invariably brought in via a window, but also mustn't be a hazard to people in the house. Where are there power sockets? Is there a suitable table, counter top or window ledge for the transceiver? Based on the length of coax cable I bring the maximum distance between rig and antenna is 50 feet.

Once I have decided where everything will go. The antenna is put up first, followed by ground radials, then auto ATU and coax attached followed up by connection of the transceiver. My wife Cece usually helps with this, but

LDGZ-11 Pro Auto ATU (it is battery operated and uses latching relays for low current drain)

if we have family or friends coming I may do it on my own.

An example from 2021:

In Gortnageera, Martinstown, Co Antrim, the rig was set up on an ironing board in an unused bedroom.

In Carrowniskey, Ballycastle, Co Mayo, the rig was on a counter top in the kitchen.

In Bantry, Co Cork the rig was on top of a chest of drawers in the main bedroom we were using.

In 2022

In Lisnapaste, Lahey, Co Donegal the rig was on a wide windowsill in the sitting room

The rig end of the coax has a bit of string attached to it at the connector. The connector is enclosed in small plastic bag when not operating, so with the string it can be lowered outside the window and the end of the string clamped to the closed window frame, i.e. the window can be shut at night or when you are away from the house, but when operations resume the cable can be retrieved by just pulling on the string and then the cable reconnected to the rig.

When things go wrong....

It doesn't happen every year, fortunately.

In 2021 at Gortnageera, after the first two weeks when I was dismantling one of the sections of the fiberglass pole it stuck and wouldn't telescope down, even with the assistance of WD40. In trying to twist and push free I applied too much pressure and caused the stuck section to fracture and splinter. At the next location in Ballycastle, Co Mayo, I effected a temporary repair making a splint with some 20mm PVC conduit and duct tape.

Holidaying in Ireland With Amateur Radio

At one location, near Collooney, Co Sligo we had rented a house in a forest area by a stream. What we hadn't been told by the owner was that the local deer come into the unfenced property at night so I found on the morning after the first night that some of the ground radial wires tangled and broken. So after affecting a repair I would drag the radials to one side after radio operation to minimize the hazard for the deer.

I have in one year in the past forgotten the auto ATU -not disastrous as the antenna resonates on 40m and 15m, and the transceiver has a built in SWR/Power meter.

I also forgot one year the IEC power lead for the FT-897 -noticed on arrival on the Saturday afternoon but had to wait until the next Monday to find a shop open that had one.

You learn from your mistakes -and tend not to repeat the more painful ones!

The Holiday Experience...

We have quite leisurely starts most days -getting up around 8am followed by a light breakfast while catching up on the news on TV or radio.

I usually get on the air around 0945-1000 for 30 minutes to an hour. We usually go out around 1030 to 1045 to undertake what ever we are going to do -don't plan to far ahead as weather can be a little unpredictable.

Typically, walking along coastal paths, up scenic hills, or other scenic trails is something we do quite often. Ordnance Survey maps are very useful for finding roads to start from and paths to go down

Ireland has many, many neolithic monuments and we often seek out the smaller and lesser well known ones

We also visit historic and cultural sites, castles, stately homes, museums, and country fairs.

I've been writing up the family history over the years and as a part of that we visit and photograph locations where ancestors and relatives lived and died

Lunch is often the main meal of the day, so around 1 to 1.30 we will be looking for a pub or a restaurant to get something to eat.

After lunch, we will either continue walks or visits.

When we have had enough, and not eating out in the evening, we will head back to the rental house around 5 to 7pm and have a light meal often sandwiches and salads, or some local fresh fish.

Depending on the area, we may have friends or relatives to visit and this may be done in the evening, or we take another short walk locally and have a drink at a pub, perhaps enjoying a scenic view at the same time.

In the West of Ireland it doesn't get dark until nearly 11pm during the summer, so there is much to be made of the long evenings.

In normal times we would have also enjoyed hearing local music at pubs or other gatherings, but this was fairly restricted in 2020 and 2021.

Sometimes we just sit outside the house, or in a sun room, with a drink, enjoying the view, and maybe reading.

I'll usually switch on the radio for an hour before going to bed, often on 17m or 20m and see what I can hear and work.

Typical costs

Car ferry: in the summer minimum return (no flexibility) for a car and two people return between GB and Ireland would be around £250. For fully flexible tickets at most popular times of day with 1st class lounge access then around £400-450.

Houses: cost depends on size, location, amenities and time of year -most expensive June through August. Cheapest houses we have had were 1 bedroom cottages in Co Tipperary and Co Cork for £330 and £350 a week respectively, and from £750 or more for a 5 bed 4 bathroom house. Northern Ireland tends to be a little more expensive than RoI.

How far in advance do you need to book?

Ferries: If you want to be certain of particular crossing at peak/popular times then you need to book at least 6 - 8 weeks before.

Houses: if you want to be certain of getting properties at particular locations for the most popular dates, e.g. July/August then you need to be looking at least 6 to 8 months before, if not earlier.

Documents and other things that you might need to bring (assuming RoI or UK citizenship):

Car: For RoI, Insurance 'Green Card' was required in 2021 but no longer, Car Registration Document. No 'UK' car sticker is required, however if you have old EU style number plates then you should cover up the blue strip or change EU flag to Union flag and change 'GB' to 'UK'. Breakdown cover is optional but recommended. SATNAV not essential but recommended if you want a happy wife.

Persons: Photo ID for ferry (passport not required). Photo driving licence or Freedom Pass is OK. I have never been asked at the ferry ports for photo ID. EHIC or new UK GHIC equivalent for medical emergencies. Travel insurance optional. Phone with roaming (RoI). I and my wife have phones with two SIMs capability so use local Irish SIM when in RoI that has unlimited data. NB: citizens of other EU countries need national ID card or passport. Citizens of non-EU countries require passport.

Other: Ordnance Survey Maps -essential if you want to visit the most scenic and inaccessible places. Good local guide books. Walking and trail guides can often be got for free at tourist offices

In Summary

...You can enjoy amateur radio as part of family holiday without impinging on the enjoyment of other family members

...You can learn a lot from operating at different fixed locations and can often enjoy aspects that are difficult in typical suburban QTHs

...You get to make contact with local amateurs and often get to meet interesting people

...Everyone's holiday desires are different, but if you don't restrict yourself to the 'package' holiday experience you can fit in amateur radio

Some videos of operation:

G7CRQ/P Video from Botley Hill which includes 40m net with EI2JW and other SRCC members: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DeFrT0K9BlxsDgyWJDH6vOcAkF49dDPX/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116470075829034821844&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

EI2JW Video from Carrowniskey, Ballycastle, Co Mayo (edited by G7CRQ) of 40m net with SRCC members: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YXUGiCk5MCKIJTvGJ2NdZ1GT0MWTolYL/view?usp=sharing>

Pat McGuinness G4FDN and / G14FDN / EI2JW

The FOXX-3 Transceiver QRP Project

There is nothing more satisfying than building one's own equipment for transmitting and receiving. Minimalist QRP equipment can give great rewards for a fraction of the cost of the latest flagship equipment supplied by the Big Three manufacturers.

For some reason, QRP operators are besotted with the idea of building their equipment into Altoids or tobacco tins. The only problem is that you must eat the Altoids first before you can use the tin - not exactly my taste! The ultimate reward is to hook up the project to an antenna and then apply the power and it will hopefully burst into life rather than smoke!

Being a tiny Altoid tin project, measuring 9.5cm x 6 cms, the project can be carried easily in the pocket or the rucksack along with a dipole for the band in question and a small Sealed lead acid battery. The use of a resonant antenna ensures that all of the power is going to the antenna and none wasted in a matching unit.

So basically this is the shack in the pocket and one could use a pair of walking poles strapped together as an antenna support.

In this article I describe the FOXX-3 transceiver which is a popular kit sold by Kanga products for £32.50. I have built the 40 and 20 metre versions some time ago, but they are available for 80, 60, 30 metres as well.

The FOXX QRP transceiver was designed by George Burt GM3OXX and appeared in the 1983 summer issue of Sprat Magazine the Foxx used just five transistors and employed the PA transistor as the detector for the receiver. The FOXX-3 by Derek Alexander G4GVM was published in the spring 1999 issue of SPRAT. While based on the original FOXX transceiver, it had a few refinements to make operation easier: Automatic transmit/receive change over (semi-break-in), sidetone and built-in harmonic filter.

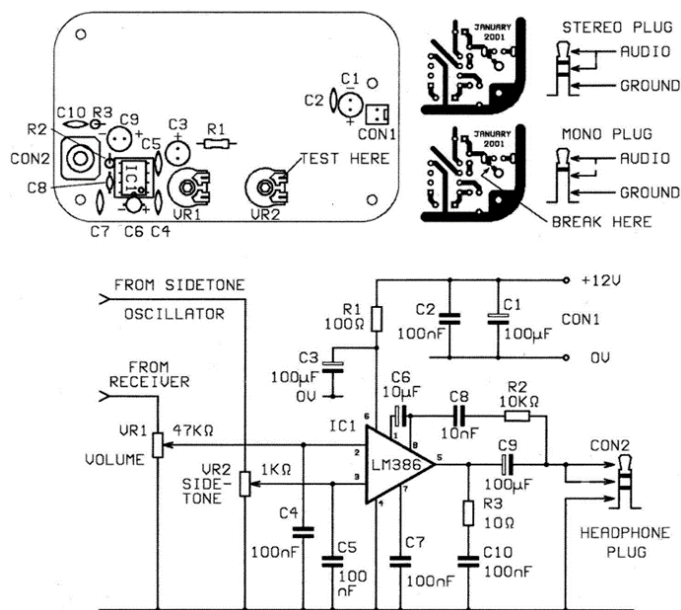
Derek kindly gave Kanga Products permission to produce the FOXX-3 in kit form. This kit contains a high-quality fibreglass printed circuit board with component positions printed in white, all board mounted components, and detailed step-by-step instructions. Once completed and tested you have a nice compact 2watt CW transceiver.

The board can be fitted into an "Altoids" mint tin. All connections are made vertically from the board so the transceiver is concealed when the lid is closed. Mounting screws may be fitted through holes drilled into the floor of the tin. The Headphone connection Low impedance "personal stereo type. The Morse Key or Key connection can be a 3.5mm Jack plug, sleeve connected to 0v, a 2-pin 0.1" header plug or small push button (supplied) maybe fitted directly to the board.

The kit came with a comprehensive and well written set of constructional details and the instructions take you through the build stage by stage. Each stage can be tested before moving onto build the next one.

Audio Amplifier

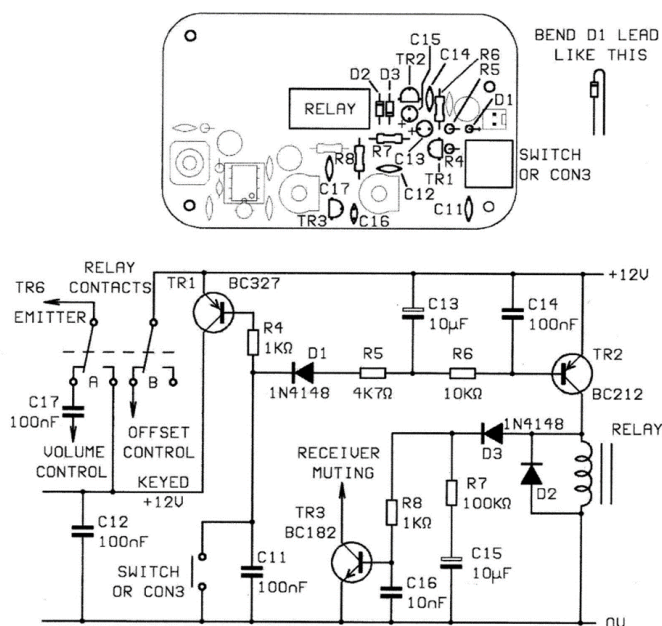
The FOXX-3 audio amplifier is an LM386 integrated circuit, IC1. It has two inputs with separate volume controls, one for the receiver audio and one for the transmitter sidetone. During transmission a transistor mutes the receiver audio input. The amplifier's output drives low power impedance mono or stereo headphones via a 3.5mm jack socket. The headphones used with personal stereo players are suitable



Audio Amplifier stage

Keying Stage

When the FOXX-3's Morse key is pressed several things happen. Transistor TR2 turns on, energising the relay. This removes the positive supply fed to the crystal oscillator via the Rx offset control, and disconnects the detector (PATransistor) from the volume control. Transistor TR1 turns on, energising the key +12v rail. This applies power directly to the crystal oscillator (not via the offset control) to the PA transistor and to the sidetone oscillator so that the Morse code being transmitted can be heard in the headphones. The voltage across the relay coil turns on TR3 to mute the audio amplifier's receiver input. When the key is released between the elements of Morse characters (Dits and Dahs), the sidetone oscillator and crystal oscillator stop running but the relay is kept energised by the charge on capacitor C13. If the key remains released for more than about half a second, the relay contacts change back to the receive position. This time can be adjusted by altering the value of R6. The charge on C15 holds the mute transistor on until the relay contacts have changed over.

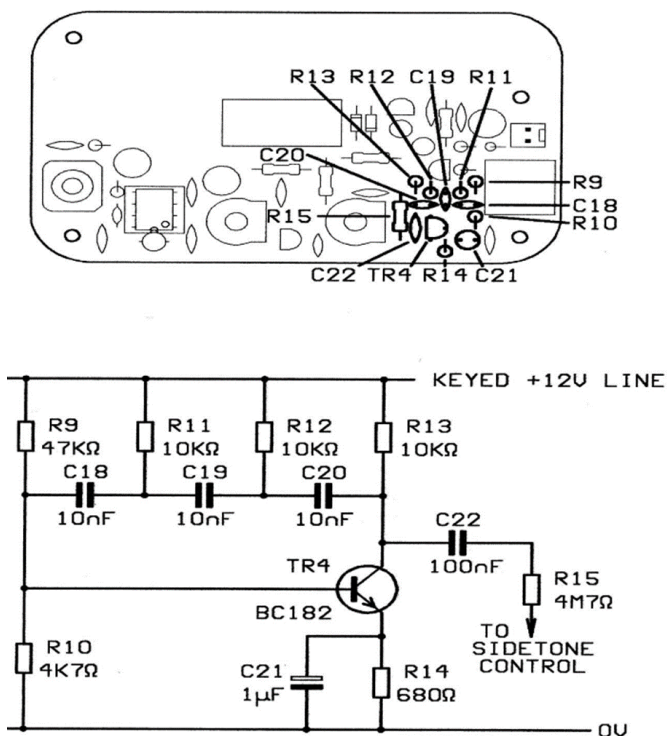


Keying stage

The FOXX-3 Transceiver QRP Project

The sidetone circuit

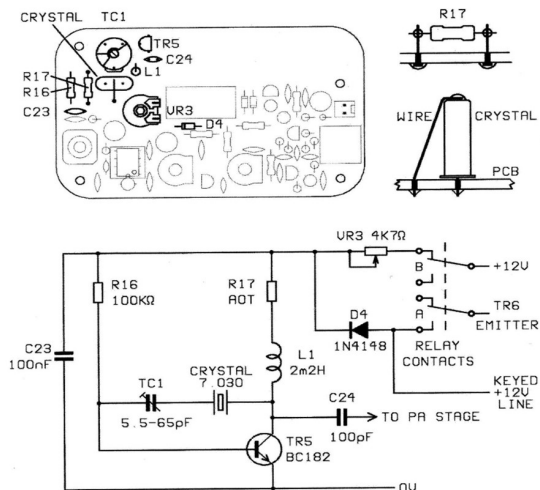
When the FOXX-3's Morse key is pressed the transmitter emits a radio frequency signal and the sidetone oscillator produces a tone which is heard in the headphones. This sidetone enables the operator to monitor his or her own sending. In the FOXX-3 the sidetone is produced by a phase shift audio oscillator TR4 fed from the keyed +12v line. Its output goes to the second input of the LM386 via a separate volume control VR2.



Sidetone circuit

Crystal oscillator

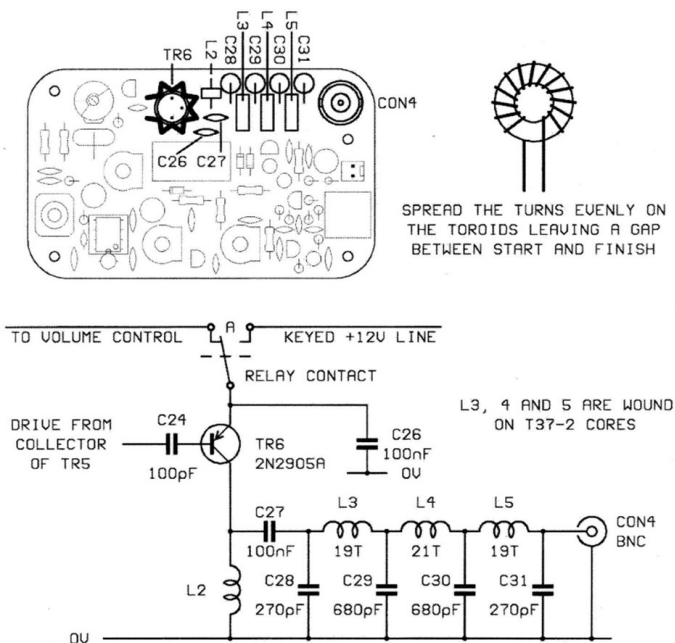
The operating frequency is determined by a quartz crystal in an oscillator circuit built around TR5. The trimmer capacitor TC1 allows a frequency variation of about 4kHz in the 80m band. During transmission the oscillator is fed from the keyed +12v line via diode D4. During reception it is fed continuously via a variable resistor VR3, which allows the frequency to be offset by a few hundred hertz. When another station replies to the FOXX-3 on exactly the same frequency (zero beat) this offset produces an audible tone (beat note) in the headphones.



Crystal Oscillator

PA Section

In the FOXX series of transceivers, the power amplifier (PA) transistor also functions as the receiver mixer. In the FOXX and FOXX-2 the changeover was made with a switch. The FOXX-3 uses a relay to give semi-break-in keying. The PA transistors collector is coupled to the antenna via a low pass filter. The base is driven by the crystal oscillator. The emitter is connected by the relay to the volume control on receive and to the keyed +12v line on transmit.



The P.A. Section



The Completed 20 metre project built into the Altoids tin. The small square item in the bottom right hand corner is the push button CW Key sufficient for slow CW.

The FOXX-3 Transceiver

The FOXX-3 is designed to match a 50Ω unbalance antenna feeder. A suitable antenna tuner should be used. Do not operate the FOXX-3 without a load connected to the antenna socket. Because the PA transistor is driven as the detector during reception, a few microwatts of power will be radiated at this time. This is normal, but if monitored on another nearby receiver it gives the impression that a strong carrier is being radiated all the time. In practice this should not cause interference to other stations, because it is at a very low level. The output filter is effective at suppressing harmonic radiation.

The FOXX-3 can be operated from any DC supply of 9 to 14 volts. It draws around 250mA when transmitting, so a small 12 volt sealed acid battery makes a good power supply once the transceiver has been tested.

This was an easy enough project to construct and provided that one checks that components are inserted in the correct positions and each section is checked for solder bridges one can move on to connect power and test the stage. Provided all of the tests are completed before constructing the next stages, this project will work first time. This was an easy enough project to construct and provided that one checks that components were inserted in the correct positions it will work first time.

My first tests revealed a clean carrier also the sidetone was acceptable. I managed to get 2 watts out using a lead acid battery. Using the small push to make switch inside the tin it was possible to send slow CW. If you wanted to send faster, I would recommend plugging in a hand or automatic key instead. Up on a hill, I suspect that this is not a big deal. I like the project so much that I built the 40 metre version also



I thank Paul, from Kanga Kits, for allowing me to reproduce parts of the Manual that comes with the kit. He informs me that this kit is unavailable at present but may be selling next year. It is possible that a few modifications may be done to the existing circuit or maybe even a new version may be considered.

In the mean time FOXX-3 kits do come up for sale on EBay and sometimes completed projects also but there is no enjoyment out of that!

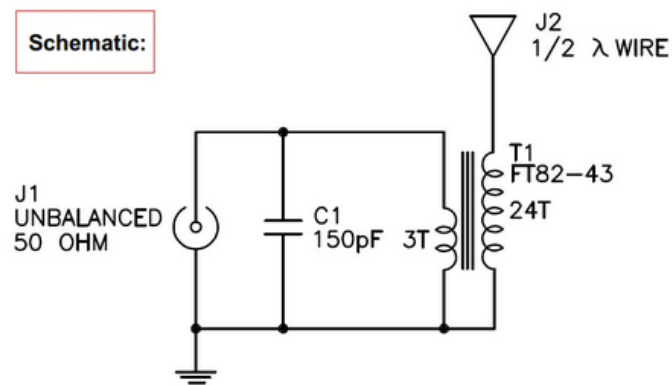
There are at least four YouTube videos of the FOXX-3 so there is plenty of back up to this project. Take look at Kanga Products for other QRP projects.

From Aliexpress

End fed Halfwave Antenna Sufficient for 10 watts



Schematic:



80m - 125'0" wire, 3.550 MHz 1.3 SWR, 3.450-3.660MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR
60m - 81'0" wire, 5.350 MHz 1.2 SWR
40m - 61'6" wire, 7.100 MHz 1.1 SWR, 6.900-7.300MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR
30m - 42'6" wire, 10.100 MHz 1.1 SWR
20m - 28'8" wire, 14.200 MHz 1.2 SWR, 13.700-14.600MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR
17m - 22'4" wire, 18.100 MHz 1.0 SWR, 17.500-18.600MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR
15m - 20'0" wire, 21.100 MHz 1.2 SWR, 20.500-21.900MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR
12m - 15'6" wire, 24.900 MHz 1.2 SWR, 23.600-26.400MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR
10m - 13'2" wire, 28.100 MHz 1.2 SWR, 26.400-31.700MHz ≤ 2.0 SWR

The single-band 80m-10m end-fed half-wave linear antenna provides the antenna. It is designed as a highly portable wired antenna and can be easily set as an inverted V, horizontal, inclined or vertical radiator (in the case of higher frequencies). The high-impedance half-wave line is matched with the 50 ohm feed point through an integrated impedance matching toroidal transformer, and the rated power is 10 watts. Use a high-voltage capacitor on the transformer primary with a specific radiator length to further expand and reduce SWR within the range of 80m-10m. It is designed to be used without a tuner, and after optimizing the driven element, the SWR of any part of the frequency band.

This item be purchased for Less than 20 Euro from Aliexpress.

Steve Wright - EI5DD - G4GFC

The Forty9er 40M Transceiver Kit

The cold dark nights have come and conditions on the radio are improving. A few months ago, I built the Pixie 40M transceiver and although it works, I am yet to make a QSO on it. I had a bit more luck with my QCX transceiver, but it puts out an impressive 5 watts. So, I started to look for something a bit simpler to make but with more output power.

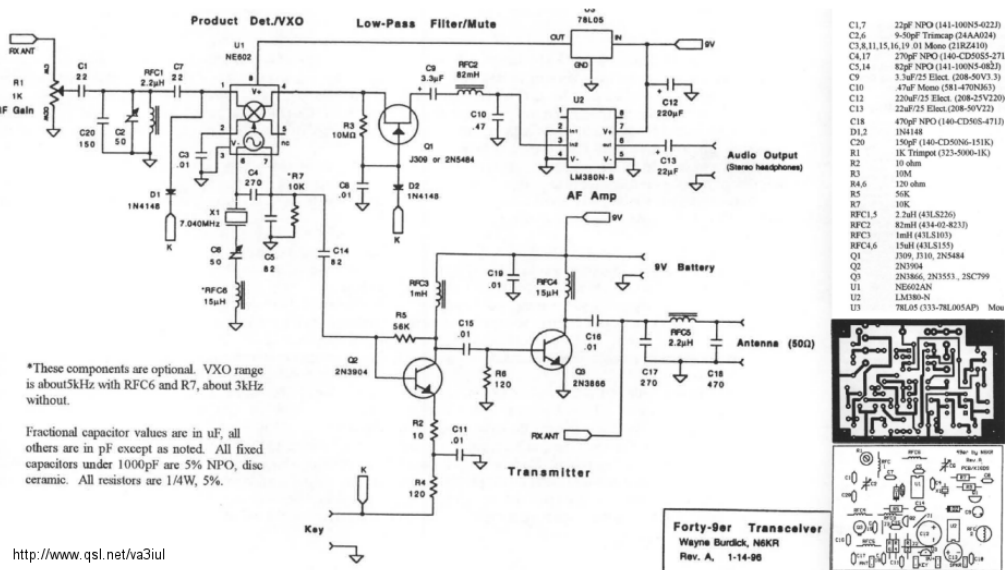
I heard about the Forty9er that's available on Aliexpress and Ebay. I found a seller on Ebay for £11 and I bought it. The first thing to do when a kit arrives is to check the contents first to make sure that all the parts are there. I actually had extra components left over. I set a day aside to build it. Whenever I start a project, I like to play old music and get into the "zone".

I recently purchased a PCB holder, so I was anxious to see how well it worked. The PCB is held in place on the clamps with a spring and turning the holder around to solder the components has made the job a lot easier. Usually when soldering components in a kit, I start with smaller components first, like the resistors and diodes.

This time I decided on a different approach. I started on the top left and slowly but surely, I made my way across the board. All the components apart from the NE602 mixer chip were through hole. The NE602 is a SMD pre-soldered onto a PCB and I had to solder 8 pins onto the PCB so it would fit into a standard size chip socket.

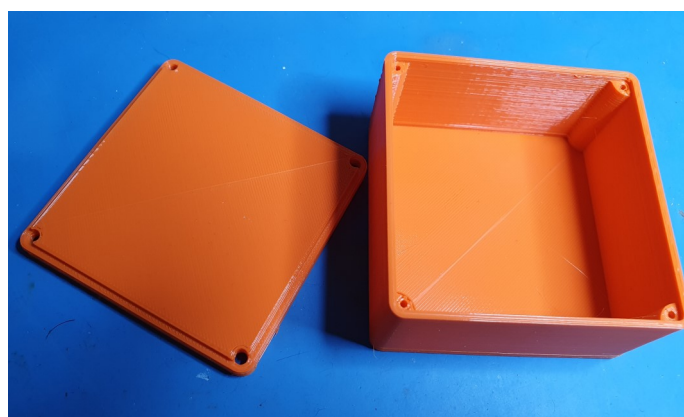


The populated circuit board ready for testing



Circuit Diagram of the forty9er QRP Transceiver

All went well with the build and a relatively short time to build it. I really enjoy the process of building a kit although due to my eyesight degrading over the years, I get eye strain and have to take more breaks in between than when I was younger. I do have a large magnifying lamp to help, and I find I have to use it more often now that I'm in my fifties. With the kit built, and using the lens, I had a thorough check on the circuit board for solder bridges and dry joints.



The Forty9er Project case

All looked well and to quote a 70's movie, all systems are go and all lights are green. Now was the time for the money shot. I attached a 47 Ohm resistor across the output and connected the project to my lab power supply. I set the voltage to 10V and limited the current to 50 mA. I connected my scope across the dummy load, headphones to the audio jack and my morse key to the key jack. I turned the power on and to my delight I had a light hiss through the headphones. Touching pin 3 on the LM386 produced a hum and when I keyed the transmitter, I could hear the sidetone. I was happy, so far so good.

I decided that now was a good time to take a break and grab myself a cup of coffee. Sitting down with a cup of coffee and a custard crème I had a think of what I had done. I had checked the component values of all the parts before I soldered them, and I was really careful about solder bridges and dry joints. Overall, I was happy with

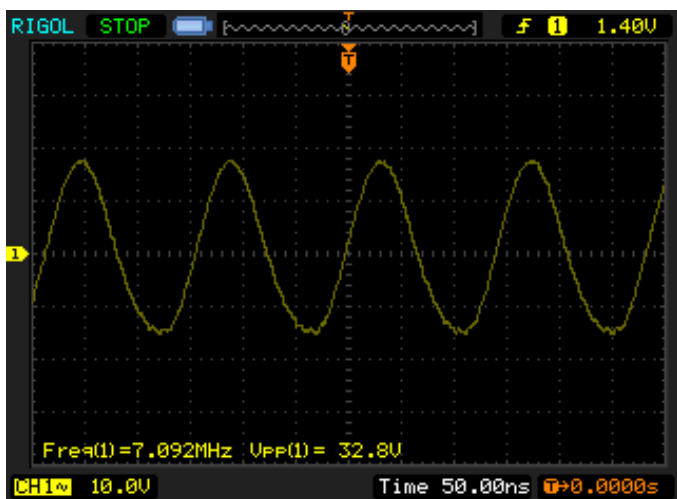
The Forty9er 40M Transceiver

what I had done. Suitably refreshed with my coffee it was back to testing the circuit.

On the scope I was getting nothing but noise. Even on TX I wasn't getting any output. I thought maybe it was because the circuit wasn't getting enough current, so I raised the current to 100 mA. It was then that the magic smoke escaped, and my heart sunk. I saw the smoke leaving the NE602 and on closer inspection I realised that I made a basic mistake. The chip was the wrong way around. I didn't have one spare but my buddy from Ath na Sceire EI8JT had a couple. He sent one up to me by post so after a couple of days I was back in action.

Using my newly acquired de-soldering station, I was easily able to unsolder the burnt-out chip and solder a new socket and plug in the new chip, right way around this time.

As soon as I powered it up and keyed the TX, I got a reading from the scope. As you can see from the picture, I was getting a peak-to-peak voltage of 32.8 Volts which gives an output power of 2.7 Watts. I connected my Forty9er to my 80M Windom and put out a few CQ's.



Although I had no replies, a quick check on the reverse beacon network showed I was heard all over the UK and Europe and although very low, northeast USA. I 3D printed a case, and I am in the process of fitting the board into it. Although I bought from the UK Ebay, the Forty9er came from China in a not so slow three weeks and in my opinion, it wasn't a difficult kit to build, if only I had paid a bit more attention the chip orientation it would have worked first time.

The Forty9er is available on Ebay UK for £11 and I look forward to working you sometime on 40-meter CW.



Micheal Na bPoib - M10HOZ

mick.conaghan@gmail.com

Hillwalking Radio Club

The Hillwalking radio club has been experimenting with a novel digital text messaging mode for VHF/UHF called Ribbit which can be used for recreational and emergency use. The App itself is called **Rattlegram** – SMS via Audio and is only currently available through Google Play for android devices. The main advantages over APRS is that any person or Group such as Community First Responders, Scouts or Girl Guides, CB and Amateur radio operators can use the platform as there is no requirement to log in a call-sign. The system doesn't require any additional software and is open source and still in beta mode. Ribbit is open source and currently in its early stages of development. Currently ranges of between 15 to 23klms are possible depending on elevation etc. Developers are Neil K2LL, Pierre W4CKX and Jason KE0CCI. Paging is also possible for amateur radio using Skype on automatic answering.

[Ribbit\(ribbitradio.org\)](http://Ribbit(ribbitradio.org))

Video Url https://youtu.be/_jN4IVcclEw



The BTECH Cables may be purchased from Amazon

Benefits of Ribbit Text over VHF/UHF

Ribbit TEXT and regular VOICE cohabit on the same frequencies

Benefits of Ribbit TEXT messages:

- high level view of all messages
- geo-location of every message
- ability to copy-paste > no transcription error
- workload sharing across multiple operators
- complete history
- respond to messages
- takes only 1 second to transmit



The MP-1 Super Antenna

The MP-1 Super antenna is the perfect antenna for portable operation. While a quarter wave antenna is ideal, it is confined to the one band and in some cases can be rather large. The MP-1 Super antenna addresses the problem by adding variable loading and a variable length of whip antenna above the loading coil. The MP-1 is lightweight, easy to deploy and requires no antenna tuning unit. The antenna can be used indoors although this would not allow it to perform to its best specification.

There are a variety of mounts with the basic plate or the TM1 is a low profile tripod mount allowing the antenna to be self-supporting although there is no harm placing a rock or weight on the legs of the tripod if there is a breeze.

The SP-3 Super mount is a method of clamping the antenna to a balcony or a table and finally the Super Spike allows the antenna to be ground mounted after the spike has been pushed into the ground. Radials are essential if the antenna is to work efficiently.



Various mounting arrangements for the Super Antenna

The MP-1 is essentially a multiband antenna primarily designed for 40 – 10 metres. The main coil of the antenna has an outer sleeve sliding mechanism which moves up and down the coil to select the correct inductance for the desired frequency. The Outer sleeve also protects the coil from rain and ice. The MP-1 can be deployed and left outside for long periods without deterioration. If one was to use the flexible whip section it would be possible to use the antenna for mobile operation.

There is a tuning chart, FG-1, which will determine the approximate length that the slider is moved up or down the coil for resonance at a given frequency. It is then possible to fine tune the antenna around this point. Obviously, the antenna will be more efficient if radials are added for the band in question.

By screwing the MC60 coil into the base of the MP-1 adjustable coil, additional loading is possible allowing the use on the 60 metre band. Substituting this coil for the MC80 coil will provide sufficient loading for the 80 metre band. These are optional extras.

The radials can be cut to suit the bands on which the system is to operate. Perhaps three radials for the band that you are going to operate. There is a lug on the base of the antenna for attaching the radials.

Frequencies:
3.5 MHz ~ 54 MHz.

+ plus 144 ~ 148 MHz simultaneously

Meter Bands adjustable to:

80m - 75m - 60m

40m - 30m - 20m

17m - 15m - 12m

11m - 10m - 6m

+ plus

Simultaneous 2m

MC2 SuperPlexer

2 meter Band Adapter

Any HF band + plus 2 meters

On The Same Antenna

MC80 Coil

80m~75m

MC60 Coil

5 MHz

ER1 Extension Rods

TW1 Telescopic Whip

Radial Sets

For All Bands

MR4010: 7-10 MHz

MR6075: 3.4-4.8 MHz

MR6060: 4.8-6.9 MHz

MR642: 40-70 MHz

MR2R: 144-148 MHz

MR2B: 144-148 MHz

TM1 Low Profile Tripod

All Modular Parts Standard 3/8\"/>

FG1 SWR Ruler

SW1 SuperWhip

Super Flexible

Ruggedized Titanium

MP1C Antenna

SuperSlider Antenna Coil

Tunes to any HF Frequency

Insulated Grip for Manual Tuning

6061-T6 Aircraft Aluminum

Reliable Self-Locking Slider

Nickel Beryllium Contacts

High Q SuperCoil

Durable Polymer Form

Get the power of a Super Antenna.

The MP-1 Super antenna with Low Profile Tripod

Note that if you are using the antenna on a spike pushed into the ground, you will still have to use radials as you cannot rely on earth conductivity alone.

Tuning is simple using the FG-1 Chart which is another optional extra unless you buy the whole kit in a bag. Slide the outer sleeve of the coil to the approximate setting on the ruler for that band. On your radio, listen for a peak and you will be pretty close.

It is always handy to have an Antenna analyser to set up the system before attaching it to the radio. Some radios will not react favourably to prolonged transmission into a high SWR. If you are not getting satisfactory results check the radials.

This systems was used with a Clansman PRC-320. The antenna tuned with a perfect SWR and I had an immediate reply on 40 metres. The FT 817 also responded well to this antenna but in respecting the finals, I used an Antenna Analyser to tune the antenna first. This will be used with the ICOM 705 Next year.

The MP-1 will collapse down into component parts and is easily carried in the rucksack for SOTA or POTA operation. And only take a couple of minutes of assemble.

The MP-1 specifications seem to vary between vendors but it is safe to say that it will handle a key down power of 150 Watts which is more than enough for the majority of portable radios. It has worked well with the FT 817, the Clansman, ICOM 7100. and ICOM 705.

As a Portable, rapidly deployable antenna, it works surprisingly well and I would recommend it for operations in remote locations. All of the component parts will fit into the ICOM LC-192 back pack.

No Tuner is required so this will lighten the load for back pack portable. See YouTube for more information.

The RSGB Transatlantic Centenary Tests

From 1st December 2022 to 31st December 2022, the RSGB are hosting, *The Transatlantic Centenary Tests*, on the HF bands to commemorate the centenary of the achievement of Amateur Transatlantic communication, during the Transatlantic Tests that were held between 1921 and 1923.

The 24th December 1922 was the date when the very first amateur signal from Europe was heard in North America; this was from the RSGB station (G)5WS which was established at Wandsworth in South London, as part of the Third Transatlantic Tests.

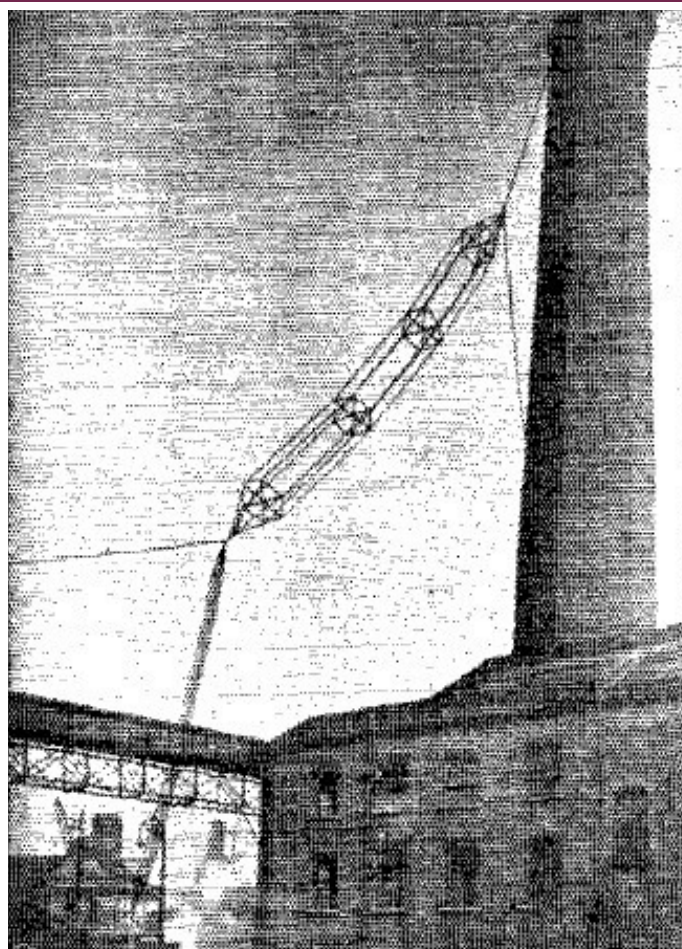
Unlike the tests of the 1920s, which mostly consisted of one-way communication, the 2022 tests will encourage world-wide two-way communication with UK & CD based stations. We want to showcase amateur radio in 2022 to celebrate this milestone in the history of the hobby. Special stations will be activated from the UK by RSGB members and Clubs, using original RSGB call signs from the 1920s but using state-of-the-art modern radio equipment.

The Club Log team have kindly agreed to provide the supporting infrastructure for the Tests.

In anticipation of this centenary celebration, with the assistance of Ofcom (the UK licensing authority), the RSGB have renewed five call signs which they held in the 1920s:

- G5WS, used for the 1922 tests – “the first to get across”
- G5AT, used for the 1923 tests
- G6XX, used for the 1923 tests
- G6ZZ, used for the first amateur tests on a moving railway train in 1924
- G3DR, Scottish Highlands Call – GM3DR.

These historic call signs are being activated by RSGB members and Clubs, using G5WS, G5AT, G6XX, G6ZZ and G3DR (England), GM5WS (Scotland), GW5WS (Wales), GU5WS (Guernsey), GD5WS (Isle of Man), GJ5WS (Jersey) and **GI5WS** (Northern Ireland).



First amateur signal from Europe heard in N. America from RSGB Station 5WS operating from Wandsworth, South London

Members of the Mid-Ulster Radio Club will be operating GI5WS on day 4 (Sunday 4th Dec)



Handmade Ham Radio Gadgets



**Contact : 0877775249
EI9GWB Arek**

GQRP Club



The G-QRP club was formed by Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV in 1974 to cater for those interested in low

power communications after a group used to meet around 3.560MHz. In 1974 the power levels to qualify for QRP was three Watts input. In the mid 1980's, by general agreement throughout the world, the power level of five Watts output (for CW) became the acceptable limit. Note, this level is at the transmitter, NOT at the antenna! For SSB 10 Watts PEP is regarded as QRP. The club has a quarterly magazine called SPRAT, so called for Small Powered Radio Amateur Transmissions. More info:

<https://www.gqrp.com/>



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Galway Radio Experimenter's Club 40th AGM

On 20th November 2022 the Galway Radio Experimenters Club held their Annual General Meeting. However, this was not the usual yearly AGM, this was the 40th AGM for the club - yes, it is 40 years old!!

The first official meeting of the club was held on 14th November 1982, and the then Secretary was Steve Wright (who also happens to be our current Club President for 2022-2023). The opening words are as follows:

"The Galway Radio Experimenters Club was formed 14th Nov 1982. From this date on, activities to promote interest in radio have taken place, along with many successful entries to contests. It is in the of the club that such activities should continue".

Signed: Steve Wright.

As you can see, the above opening statement was forward looking. Since that time, the club :

- 1) has been involved in various contests,
- 2) played a strong role in the Marconi celebrations, including involvement in various related TV documentaries celebrating Marconi,
- 3) has a past member who was IRTS President as well as a current member (Larry McGriskin) who is also the current IRTS President
- 4) Continues to play a strong role in the community with its involvement in various annual activities such as marathons, walking challenges, regattas and scouting events such as JOTA/JOTI.

Towards the end of the AGM, the IRTS President Larry McGriskin gave an impromptu talk at the request of the club president. While Larry was not expecting this, he gave a very good speech about the IRTS, its role and in particular the importance of moving forward especially with the results of the SWOT Analysis.

The AGM was held both physically, located in the Menlo Park Hotel as well as online - Graham and Deborah Wilson (VE5DGW) dialled in from Canada for the event!! To celebrate the anniversary, the club held a party after the AGM itself, where past (and current) members of the club were invited. Throughout the event we had a total of 20 people join us, some of whom had not been seen in a few years.

As part of the celebrations, we had a slideshow of old video clips and photographs from various events, dating all the way back to the early 80's. We also celebrated with a lovely cake from O'Connors Bakery in Salthill.

A big thank you to members of the club for providing photos and videos taken of events going back the years as well as copies of our Club Newsletter going back to 1982.

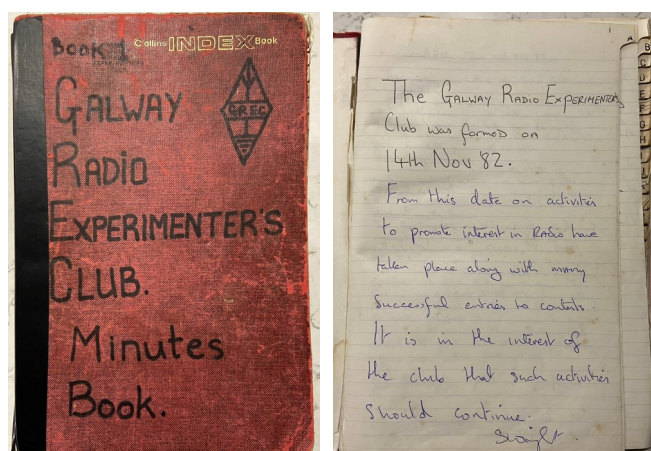
Finally, a huge thank you to the Menlo Park Hotel (<https://www.menloparkhotel.com/>) and the staff there who continually look after us for all our events.



L Tom Rea EI2GP former IRTS President 1985, Steve Wright Former IRTS Vice President 1985 and Larry McGriskin EI9CN Current IRTS President
Note: Tom EI2GP was charman and Steve EI5DD Secretary of GREC 40 years ago



Our cake made by O'Connor's Bakery in Salthill, Galway.



Our first club minutes book dating back to 14-Nov-1982, along with the opening page signed by Steve Wright (EI5DD) who was secretary at the time.

Paul O'Connor EI5IPB

Galway Radio Experimenter's Club News



(b/r, l-r): Paul O'Connor (EI5IPB), Michael Sherlock (EI1729), Tom Frawley (EI3ER), John Sullivan (EI8EU), Ciaran McCarthy (EI8IH), Jason Shaughnessy (EI3IQB), Aengus Cullinan (EI4ABB), Ronan Coyne (EI8HJ), Kieran Burke (EI6JU), Pat McGrath (EI2HF)

(f/r, l-r): Frank McCurry, Gerry Ormond (EI8EXB), Tom Rae (EI2GP), Steve Wright - Club Chairman (EI5DD), Larry McGriskin - IRTS President (EI9CN), Enda Broderick (EI2II), Joe Hernon (EI3HM).

Our Club Monthly Meetings:

The Galway Radio Club met in the Menlo Park Hotel for the monthly club night. It is generally held on the first Monday of every month, except if it is a Bank Holiday in which case, we meet on the second Monday of the month. We also support a virtual presence via. Jitsi (<https://jitsi.org/>). It is generally a well-attended night with members being both physically and virtually present.

Focus:

The focus of our monthly club night is, as a rule, all things Ham Radio is about – learning about new things, sharing information on what works (or doesn't work), showing new (or old) pieces of equipment and giving presentations/demo's where we can. Any "club administration" is handled separately by our committee and only bring to the Monday night meeting anything that the club members need to be made aware of. Of course, Monday night club members can also raise questions/concerns/issues etc. to the committee

Last Club Night:

Last club night (07-November), we covered a small number of topics including the planning for our upcoming AGM and 40-year celebrations. It was a light night compared to normal.

JOTA/JOTI

We talked briefly about the JOTA event the previous month. The secretary referred everyone to the article in the Connacht Radio News (November edition) which had an article about the event - see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1437072523434876/> for more details.

Club AGM

This was an important topic as not only did we have the AGM coming up on 20th November, but it was also a time to celebrate the club being in existence for 40 years!!!

With that in mind, we covered important topics such as getting old photos and video clips, getting a cake with our club logo on it and making sure that we try as best we can to contact past members so that they could share in our club celebrations. The goal for the day (20-Nov) was primarily the celebrations - we would get the "formal" AGM out of the way efficiently.

Internet Archive

One of our members sent an email to the club, with a view towards contributing to the Internet Archive – specifically the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications which is one area being covered by the Internet Archive – search Google for DLARC – it is currently the top response.

We discussed this and looked at the archive site as well and recognized that the club webpage is being scraped and stored in a "time capsule" of sorts on the site. In fact, this is likely happening for a lot of our club websites!!

The challenge here is that we ourselves currently don't have any archive of material that could be shared, and there are concerns around GDPR, permissions etc.

Having said that, we are already in the process of gathering old photos, video clips and newsletters to celebrate our 40 years on air, and we can revisit this later.

So, for the moment, no decision made on contributing yet to the DLARC.

Galway Radio Experimenter's Club

Anderson Powerpoles

As promised, Jason gave a short talk/demo of Anderson Powerpoles, there use with power connections, and showed how they are put together, the different gauges of wire supported and to make sure that the connections are done correctly.

Jason gave this talk while sitting at home (he was "dialled in to our call") and so it was difficult to get a closer look at these connectors. However, Jason will bring some in for the next meeting and might also do a short demo for us.

AOB

Under AOB, we talked about the uBITX (specifically the V6 version) and the Secretary connected to <https://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/ubitx-v6/> so that everyone could see what was being talked about. There is no soldering involved, rather assembly with some screwdrivers etc., but you get a working, portable transceiver as described here from their website:

A general coverage, 10 watts HF SSB/CW transceiver kit with features you NEED for operating ease, convenience and versatility. It works from 3 MHz to 30 MHz, with up to 10 watts on SSB and CW, with a very sensitive receiver. It features digital tuning, dual VFOs, RIT, CW Keyer and more.

Several of us in our meeting decided to get one of these, and so we are going to order the full kit version – we just need to see if others are also interested, and we order in bulk. It looks like an interesting project both for portable work as well as low power work.



Welcome To EI3CC

What ever your interest in radio is then maybe we can help you.
Our aim is operating stations outdoors and getting involved with as many groups as possible.
Scouting, youth clubs etc are all welcome.
So come join us and enjoy the world of
Collective Communication



COMMUNITY
RESCUE
SERVICE



NOW RECRUITING
EMERGENCY RESPONDERS
& SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS
WESTERN DISTRICT
OMAGH-STRABANE-DERRY AREAS



Have you ever considered becoming an emergency responder or support team member? Are you 18+? We are members of the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue providing Land and Water Emergency Response for High Risk Missing Persons. Is this a role for you? (Ability to Swim is not required)
If interested text 'RESPONDER' OR 'SUPPORT' with your Name, Age and Area to the number provided and a colleague will be in touch.

ENQUIRE NOW TEXT:

07840461611



CB & HAM RADIO TRADING POST
IRELAND ONLY!!!

This group is for CB'ers and Amateurs on the island of Ireland (North and South) to trade, buy, sell or swap equipment. Also to act as a service to disperse the equipment of a Silent Key if necessary. We all know the rally's aren't what they used to be, and mostly is computer related junk at them from what I can see. If you have some old gear, list it and get rid of it. THIS GROUP WILL NOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DEALS MADE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS!
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10229100370723635&set=gm.852664262429035>

Shannon Basin Radio Club News

SEASON'S GREETINGS



On behalf of Shannon Basin Radio Club, I would like to wish all operators, SWLs, and their families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. No doubt there will be a special net or two over the Christmas break so we look forward to having QSOs with as many of you as possible.

IRTS AGM 2023

Shannon Basin Radio Club will host the 2023 IRTS AGM Weekend on Saturday April 29th and Sunday 30th next year. The venue is the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The club is busy working on the arrangements. Gala tickets are available for purchase and tables are available for the radio rally on the Sunday. We are also seeking submissions from anyone wishing to lead a short talk or mini-construction session on Saturday April 29th. Further information is available at www.irts.ie or www.sbrcl.ie/agmweekend

SSB Nets on 80m and 160m

Having restarted the weekly Shannon Basin Radio Club nets, it is fantastic to see the number of stations calling in growing each week. We encourage DX, local, portable, mobile, and especially newly licenced and first-timers on the band to call in. In recent nets, we had callers from all over Europe joining in in addition to first-timers on the band and lots of new call signs. The 160m net is on Monday nights from 9pm followed by the 80m net on Thursdays from 9pm also.

IRTS Autumn Counties Contest Results

Club members Owen EI4GGB and Keith EI5IN operated as EI2SBC/p in the 2m and 70cm Autumn Counties Contest. They took the honours in the 2m SSB/FM High Power Portable section with 31 valid QSOs. Mark EI6JK, also a club member, won the SSB/FM High Power Fixed section. In the 70cm contest, the club was narrowly pipped to the post by Joe Ryan operating as EI7GY/p. Congrats Joe and congrats to all the winners in the contest categories.

EI2SBR – Shannon Basin Radio Club's 2m Repeater

Following a planned update to the 2m repeater recently, the CTCSS tone was changed to 77Hz. The repeater located on Sliabh Bán hill in Co. Roscommon has extensive coverage. The club received reports of stations accessing it from Tallaght in South Dublin, Birr in Co. Offaly, and even well into Northern Ireland. Reports and call-ins are very welcome. Further details about the repeater can be found at <https://sbrcl.ie/repeater>



**2M REPEATER
EI2SBR**

**OUTPUT: 145.775MHz
INPUT: 145.175MHz
CTCSS TONE: 77Hz**

160M SSB NET

MONDAY 9PM

1.847MHz ± QRM

CALLING AS EI2SBC



**All
welcome!**

80M SSB NET

THURSDAY 9PM

3.775MHz ± QRM

CALLING AS EI2SBC

EI2SBC SSB NETS

160M NET MONDAY 9PM
1.847MHz ± QRM

80M NET THURSDAY 9PM
3.775MHz ± QRM

**All
welcome!**

DX, LOCAL, PORTABLE, MOBILE, NEWLY-LICENCED



Radio Club's News

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network




The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network will hold their next club meeting on Wednesday evening December 7th at 9.00pm in the Breaffy House Hotel, Breaffy. Everyone is welcome to come along in the evening. We will hopefully take part in the 80m

Counties Contest on 1st January 2023 New Year's Day using the club call sign **EI7MRE**.

Silent Key

It is with regret we announce the death of another DX radio operator. **Les Booth**, Culfadda, Ballymote, Co. Sligo. Les was a well-known radio operator here in Mayo when he lived in the Glenhest/Kenya area for many years, his voice would be heard calling for DX from the 29 division especially on the high channels on the 11-metre band, (that was when we had good propagation on the high bands). He built and repaired his own antennas and radios; his shack was well kitted out and would put a lot of us licensed amateurs to shame.

He was a long-distance truck driver by trade and always had a CB on hand. Patience denied Les from getting his license even though he had tried many times, but the knowledge learned from the study benefited him. He always supported our Mayo Radio Rally and he would be available to help with the removing and loading the tables etc after the rally was over. Rest In Peace Les



The December meeting of the Skywave Amateur Radio Club. EI0SW will take place, Tuesday the 6th of December at 8.00 p.m. at the Old Halfway House, Rathduff, Co. Cork. T23 VN88

New members or anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio are very welcome to attend.

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society is based in Dundalk, Co. Louth Ireland. The society was established in 1969 by a number of like minded amateur radio operators from the Dundalk area. EI7DAR, EI0W, EI2MOG, EI2CCR, EI4FMG and EI7DKD are the amateur radio call signs issued to the society by ComReg. The next meeting of DARS takes place in their clubhouse at 8:30 pm on Wednesday the 7th of December.

WESCOM RADIO SHOP

<https://wescom.ie/>

HOT NEWS

New Radio Club

Limerick Radio Club Re-launched



Limerick Radio Club had been relaunched with club call sign:

EI9LR

Membership is open to all and the club hopes to participate in field days, contests and special events. Radio theory classes are also in the pipeline for the future.

Suggestions & queries are welcome via email to limerickradioclubei9lr@gmail.com

Keep an eye on the club Facebook page for announcements and maybe some club giveaways before Christmas!



For just 15 Euro Membership you can get an individual AXA Public Liability Insurance Cover of €9,000,000. This is applicable to all Member states of the EU.

Why not affiliate your club also and obtain cover for all club events. This organisation does not require you to declare your membership for their DATABASE!





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SAT 29TH & SUN 30TH
APRIL 2023



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**From: National Radio
Society of Ireland (NRSI)**

Wishing all
radio enthusiasts,
their families and friends a

*Happy
Christmas*



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- Aeronautical
- Civic Planning
- Defence Forces
- Telecommunications and
Infrastructure/Utilities
- Technology Development
- Search and Rescue

Northern Ireland Radio Club Meetings

The Strangford High Frequency Enthusiasts Group is accepting UK-wide enrolments for the next UK Full licence training programme. They also use Google Meets on Monday evenings. It is completely free, email G10VKP@gmail.com for details or see the QRZ.com entry for G10VKP.

On Tuesdays Carrickfergus Amateur Radio Group meets in the Elim church, North Road, Carrickfergus from 7pm. All visitors are welcome. Info from gi0usx@yahoo.co.uk

Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club has a club net on Tuesdays at 8.30pm on 145.300MHz. On Thursday, the club meets at The United Services Club, Roemill Road, Limavady. Contact Jason, MI3UIW, via email to Bushvalleyarc@gmail.com

West Tyrone ARC holds regular monthly meetings on Wednesday 9th November at 19:30 in Strathroy Community Centre, Omagh, BT79 7XE. Contact: info@wtarc.org.uk for more information

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club normally meets at 7:30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Share Centre, Lisnaskea. More information from: <https://lougherneradioclub.co.uk/>



DARS Christmas Party - Bring & Buy Sale
Wednesday 7th December 2022 @ 8:00pm
Everyone Welcomed
(All funds raised are in aid of DARS)

Drop by our Online SolderSmoke Store



<https://>

www.cafepress.com/soldersmoke

SHANNON BASIN RADIO CLUB
80M SSB NET
THURSDAY 9PM
3.775MHZ ± QRM
CALLING AS EI2SBC
All welcome!
DX, LOCAL, PORTABLE, MOBILE, NEWLY-LICENCED

DV SCOTLAND PHOENIX WEEKLY NETS



MONDAY NIGHT NET
8PM TILL 9.30PM UK

SATURDAY NIGHT
COAST TO COAST NET
9PM TILL 10PM

STATIC ON TG 23555 & 23556



HAMSHACK HOTLINE : 94110
HAMS OVER IP : 25001



SolderSmoke
Global Adventures in Wireless Electronics
Bill Meara

Short Term Winter Awards



W.A.B. organises an annual Christmas activity period, known as the 'W.A.B. Christmas Party', the object of the Party is to work as many W.A.B. Book-holders as possible during the Christmas period. The party runs for the 12 days of Christmas, starting at 00:01 UTC on 26th December each year and closing at 23:59 UTC on 6th January of the following year.

For Europe HF:

100 points are required for the basic certificate; endorsements are then available for each additional 100 points up to 900, after which a new certificate will be issued at the cost of an endorsement. More info: <http://wab.intermip.net/Winter%20Points%20Award.php>



More information may be found at: <http://wab.intermip.net/Christmas%20Party%20Award.php>

PA22XMAS

This year we will be active as PA22XMAS PD22SANTA and PD23HNY to celebrate the X-mas time!

Active from 1 till 31 December and PD23HNY till half of January '23
 Work the at least 2 Dutch Xmas stations and download the award below!
 SWL stations please send the log to pa5dkray@gmail.com

Merry Christmas & Happy DXing

Active from 1st December to the 31st of December. Work at least 2 of the stations, PA2XMAS, PD22SANTA and PD23HNY.

PD23HNY will be active for half of the month of January 2023

Click link here - <https://www.grz.com/db/pa22xmas>



"Christmas in Sardinia" 2021 01-24 December. The Ham radio Sardinian operators in the World Group (Gruppo Radioamatori Sardi nel Mondo), in order to promote the history and the traditions of the Sardinian people, encouraging at the same time in the category of research and the knowledge of its peculiarities and specific traditions of this people, is glad to submit this Award characterized by its periodicity and limited to the Christmas period only, starting from December 1st until December 24th 2021. It is issued free of charge and only by telematic means to those ham radio operators or SWL who can demonstrate to have made the following QSO with Sardinian Radio Amateurs belonging to all the Associations who lives on the Island: More Information from: <https://dxnews.com/forum/forum/amateur-radio-awards/39819-christmas-in-sardinia-2021>

For Sale - Antenna Tilt Plates



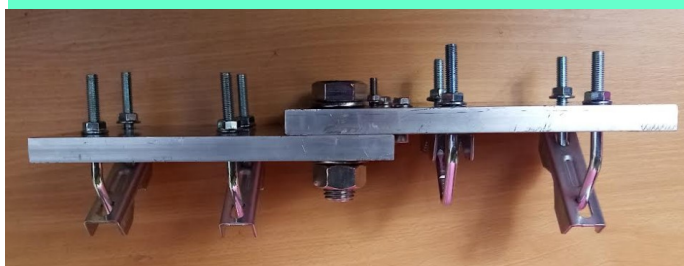
Antenna tilt plates for sale 160 Euro shipped via DPD within EI suitable for Hex, Cobweb and Yagi antennas that are on a tilt mast to make maintenance and repair easier. Overall 30mm thick aluminium plate design, each side of the plate being 15mm. With 30mm on its overlap with stainless steel pivot and nyloc nut hardware for added flexibility. With a set of dual heavy duty V clamps on the upper and

lower plate allow for universal mounting onto a variety of masts and antenna stub masts which can accommodate mast and stub poles up to 50mm in diameter which are then secured into the V clamps by its clamp and Jaw hardware.

These are new and are handmade and never been used.

Contact: Charlie Carolan
087 6265418

or
charlie.carolan@gmail.com



RSGB Radio News Services From GI

10:00 3640KHz LSB Dungiven

12:00 TG2354 Time Slot 2 BM Network

19:30 TG 880 Time Slot 2 Phoenix Network

Shannon Basin's Automated Stations

Sliabh Bán Repeater O/P: 145.775 ,I/P :145.175, CTCSS 77Hz

Roscommon Multimode Digital Gateway EI2BED 144.8625 MHz

Current Systems Active in Galway

70cm DMR Repeaters

EI7RHD I/P 430.450 O/P 439.450 CC1

EI7LRD I/P 430.475 O/P 439.475 CC1

EI7AKR I/P 438.425 O/P 430.825 CC1

EJ7IBD I/P 430.500 O/P 439.500 CC1

Yaesu Fusion Repeater

EI2KMR I/P 145.025 O/P 145.625 Wires -X

Gateways

EI2SHD 144.8125 Wires-X Gateway

EI2GCD 145.850 P25 Gateway

EI4GCG 70.425 ALLSTAR node

What is Waiting in the Wings?

1 x 70cm D-Star Repeater

1 x 70cm DMR Repeater completing the network to the South East.

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scatterpoint

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Amateur Radio®
<http://www.arrl.org/>



<https://www.eurao.org/en/welcome>

Dates for the Diary

December - YOTA month

GB1LJF Special Event Station from 1st December

WRTC 2023 Award - 1st January - 31st January

Guides Thinking Day On The Air - 22nd February

RSGB 2023 AGM - 15th April 2023

International Marconi Day - 2Saturday 3rd April 2023

RSGB



The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is the national membership organisation of amateur radio enthusiasts. The society was founded in 1913 and incorporated in 1926. The Society is dedicated to the development of the science and practice of amateur radio. It works to increase awareness and understanding of amateur radio and to make the hobby accessible to everyone. Amateur radio licences were issued to the first UK radio amateurs in 1934. The RSGB represents the interests of UK licensed radio amateurs and is a not-for-profit organization that:

- Promotes the general advancement of the science and practice of radio communication or other relevant subjects.
- Facilitates the exchange of information and ideas on these subjects among its members.

The RSGB aims to obtain the maximum liberty of action consistent with safeguarding the interests of all concerned. RSGB membership is open to all who have an interest in radio communications. The national governing body (The Board) is elected nationally. The regional governing body (The Regional Council) is elected on a regional basis. The day-to-day management of the society is under the control of a small team of full-time employees who are based at the society's head office in Bedford. *RSGB Membership is just £59.00 and this includes 12 monthly technical magazines.* Affiliate your club and get the opportunity for all members to log in and read the online publication of RADCOM, RADCOM Basics and RADCOM Plus as well as receiving a hard copy of the Magazine for the Club. Apply here: <https://rsgb.org/main/join-us/join-the-rsgb/>

Why join NRSI?

WE MAY BE A NEW SOCIETY, ONLY ESTABLISHED IN 2020, HOWEVER ALREADY WE OFFER SOME AMAZING SERVICES

We want everyone to be able to ENJOY their Hobby...

NRSI aims to be friendly and supportive towards all fellow radio enthusiasts

NRSI encourages an open forum method of management - We aim to allow our members to have their voices heard and respected in a fair transparent process

Watch out for our many exciting events planned during 2022, you will not regret getting involved...



Let's work together for a brighter future



EI-2-SAT



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A man dressed as Santa Claus is sitting on a wooden chair. He has a long white beard, wears a red hat with white fur trim, a white shirt, red suspenders, and red trousers. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. To his right is a decorated Christmas tree with red and gold ornaments and red bows. A small white reindeer figurine is visible behind him. The background is dark.

CHRISTMAS NET

NRSI

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SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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on the airwaves net

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